

## House File 2235 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2235

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### A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a centralized state school bus purchasing  
2 program administered by the department of administrative  
3 services.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1     Section 1. NEW SECTION.   **8A.319 Centralized state school**  
2 **bus purchasing program.**

3     1. The department shall develop procedures and  
4 specifications for the solicitation of bids for the purchase of  
5 school buses, in consultation with the department of education,  
6 the department of transportation, school districts, and  
7 nonpublic schools. In soliciting bids, the department shall  
8 conform to all applicable state and federal laws, rules, and  
9 regulations regarding standards for school buses.

10    2. As a condition of participating in the state school bus  
11 purchasing program, each bidder shall agree that if the bidder  
12 subsequently offers a substantially similar bid to another  
13 purchaser for a lower price, the bidder's contract price with  
14 the state shall be automatically reduced to match the lower  
15 price.

16    3. As a condition of participating in the state school  
17 bus purchasing program, each bidder shall agree to include an  
18 option for school districts to trade in school buses currently  
19 in use.

20    4. The department may award a contract for purchase to  
21 any bidder or bidders responsive to the needs of at least  
22 one school district or nonpublic school participating in the  
23 program.

24    5. Participation in the state school bus purchasing program  
25 by school districts and nonpublic schools is voluntary. A  
26 school district or nonpublic school may accept any bid for  
27 which the department awards a contract for purchase. A school  
28 district or nonpublic school participating in the program shall  
29 conform to all applicable local, state, and federal laws,  
30 rules, and regulations regarding standards for school buses.  
31 A school district or nonpublic school may participate in the  
32 program in lieu of following the procedures for the purchase of  
33 school buses prescribed by chapter 285.

34    6. The department, in conjunction with the department of  
35 education and the department of transportation, shall adopt

1 rules to administer this section.

2     Sec. 2. Section 285.10, subsection 7, paragraph b, Code  
3 2011, is amended to read as follows:

b. By purchasing buses and entering into contracts to pay for such buses in accordance with section 8A.319 or over a five-year period as follows: one-fourth of the cost when the bus is delivered and the balance in equal annual installments, plus simple interest due. The interest rate shall be the lowest rate available and shall not exceed the rate in effect under section 74A.2. The bus shall serve as security for balance due. Competitive bids on comparable equipment shall be requested on all school bus purchases and shall be based upon minimum construction standards established by the department of education. Bids shall be requested unless the bus is a used or demonstrator bus.

### EXPLANATION

17 This bill establishes a centralized state school bus  
18 purchasing program administered by the department of  
19 administrative services. The bill directs the department  
20 of administrative services to develop procedures and  
21 specifications for the solicitation of bids for the purchase  
22 of school buses, in consultation with the department of  
23 education, the department of transportation, school districts,  
24 and nonpublic schools. In soliciting bids, the department must  
25 conform to all applicable state and federal laws, rules, and  
26 regulations regarding standards for school buses.

27 The bill provides that as a condition of participating in  
28 the state school bus purchasing program, each bidder must agree  
29 that if the bidder subsequently offers a substantially similar  
30 bid to another purchaser for a lower price, the bidder's  
31 contract price with the state will be automatically reduced to  
32 match the lower price. The bill provides that as a condition  
33 of participating in the program, each bidder must also agree to  
34 include an option for school districts to trade in school buses  
35 currently in use.

1 The bill provides that the department of administrative  
2 services may award a contract for purchase to any bidder or  
3 bidders responsive to the needs of at least one school district  
4 or nonpublic school participating in the state school bus  
5 purchasing program.

6 The bill provides that participation in the state school bus  
7 purchasing program by school districts and nonpublic schools  
8 is voluntary. The bill provides that a school district or  
9 nonpublic school may accept any bid for which the department  
10 of administrative services awards a contract for purchase.  
11 The bill provides that a school district or nonpublic school  
12 participating in the program must conform to all applicable  
13 local, state, and federal laws, rules, and regulations  
14 regarding standards for school buses. The bill specifies that  
15 a school district or nonpublic school may participate in the  
16 program in lieu of following the procedures for the purchase of  
17 school buses prescribed by Code chapter 285.

18 The bill directs the department of administrative services,  
19 in conjunction with the department of education and the  
20 department of transportation, to adopt rules to administer the  
21 bill.